

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 03870 010454Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-10
CIAE-00 /063 W

-----059050 010459Z /14

P R 311438Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9624
CNO WASHDC PRIORITY
COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY
INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMNAVINTCOM ALEXANDRIA VA
CHINFO WASHDC
USS VREELAND
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3870

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCLR, ET, US
SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT TURNS DOWN PORT VISIT
REQUEST FOR USS VREELAND

REFS: (A) CNO MSG DTG 012310Z AUG 78 (NOTAL)
(B) ADDIS ABABA 3822 (DTG 291427Z AUG 78 - NOTAL)

1. REF A REQUESTED EMBASSY TO SEEK ETHIOPIAN
GOVERNMENT CLEARANCES FOR USS VREELAND TO FUEL AT
ASSAB ON 4 OCT. REF B REPORTED OUR EFFORTS TO
SECURE ETHIOPIAN PERMISSION AS OF 29 AUG AND FURTHER
REPORTED A FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMENT MADE 29 AUG
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THAT AN ETHIOPIAN DECISION WOULD MOST PROBABLY NOT
BE MADE UNTIL AFTER THE 4TH ANNIVERSARY CELE-
BRATIONS OF THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION (11-15 SEPT).

2. EMBASSY HAS NOW RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FROM
FOREIGN MINISTRY SAYING THAT, DUE TO CONGESTION
AT PORT OF ASSAB, ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT COULD NOT

GRANT PERMISSION FOR USS VREELAND VISIT. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS WITH TWO FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS, BOTH REPEATED THE SAME LINE AND TOLD US THAT NO WRITTEN REPLY TO OUR 2 AUG NOTE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. VREELAND VISIT TO ASSAB ON 4 OCT IS THUS OFF.

3. OBVIOUSLY WE DO NOT ACCEPT "PORT CONGESTION" EXCUSE FOR REFUSING VREELAND VISIT AT FACE VALUE. JUST AS CLEARLY DECISION WAS MADE ON POLITICAL GROUNDS. GENTLE FASHION IN WHICH TURNDOWN WAS MADE MAY BE PARTLY NORMAL ETHIOPIAN SOPHISTICATION BUT MAY ALSO BE INDICATION THAT THE ISSUE OF A PORT CALL IS NOT FORECLOSED INDEFINITELY. WE WILL TAKE FURTHER SOUNDINGS. WE FURTHER BELIEVE THAT IN SIX MONTHS OR SO, DEPENDING ON THE STATE OF US-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS AT THAT TIME, WE SHOULD CONSIDER MAKING ANOTHER REQUEST.

FOR COMIDEASTFOR:

4. WE APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS TO ACCOMMODATE OUR POLITICAL PURPOSE BY MAKING USS VREELAND AVAILABLE FOR A SHIP VISIT, WHICH PERMITTED US TO PROBE THE PRESENT STATE OF US-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS.

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: OCLR, ET, US
To: STATE CNO
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